
DC Fire & EMS Patient Care Policies: On-Scene Medical Authority

I. Policy

1. At the scene of a non-disaster medical emergency when two or more Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel are present from two or more agencies the following will occur:
 - A. Authority for patient health care management in a non-disaster medical emergency shall be vested in that licensed or certified health care professional, which may include a Paramedic, or other prehospital emergency personnel at the scene of the emergency, who is most medically qualified specific to the provision of rendering emergency medical care. If no licensed or certified health care professional is available, the authority shall be vested in the most appropriate medically qualified representative of public safety agencies who may have responded to the scene of an emergency.
 - B. Notwithstanding the above, authority for the management of the scene of an emergency shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency. The scene of an emergency shall be managed in a manner designed to minimize the risk of death or health impairment to the patient and to other persons who may be exposed to the risks as a result of the emergency condition, and priority shall be placed upon the interests of those persons exposed to the more serious and immediate risks to life and health. Public safety officials shall consult emergency medical services personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in the determination of relevant risks.

DC Fire & EMS Patient Care Policies: On-Scene Medical Authority

I. Policy (continued)

- C. Medical management at the scene of a medical emergency includes:
 - i. Medical Evaluation.
 - ii. Medical aspects of extrication and all movement of the patient(s).
 - iii. Medical care.
 - iv. Patient destination, in consultation with Medical Control when necessary.
 - v. Transport priority.
- D. Whenever an EMT-P transfers patient care responsibility to another prehospital care provider, he/she is responsible for noting that such action took place on the Patient Care Record. The responsible EMT-P(s) is(are) required to document patient findings and treatments according to the District of Columbia Fire & EMS Departmental policy.